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Letter dated 8 January 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you and, through you, to the esteemed members of the Security Council a self-explanatory statement issued by the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Hassan Hamid **Hassan**
Chargé d' affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 8 January 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

7 January 2014

Press release

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirms that certain newspapers and media organizations incorrectly reported yesterday that the Minister for Foreign Affairs said that, during the visit to Juba by the President of the Republic and the delegation that accompanied him, discussions had been held regarding the formation of joint forces to secure the oil fields in South Sudan.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs would like to clarify that, in the press conference he held yesterday at Khartoum Airport, the Minister indicated that, based on a request from the Ministry of Petroleum of South Sudan, some 900 Sudanese technicians would be mobilized and, if necessary, dispatched to work in the oil fields of South Sudan under the supervision and direction of the South Sudan Ministry of Petroleum. The Minister added that the discussions between the two presidents had addressed the implementation of the cooperation agreements concluded between their countries, including the questions of demarcating the zero line of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone and securing the borders.

The Ministry would like to add that, in his joint press conference with the President of South Sudan, the President of the Republic said that, in the future, it might be possible to benefit from the experience of the Sudan in securing its borders with Chad, Ethiopia and Eritrea through the use of joint forces and patrols in order to secure the borders between the Sudan and South Sudan, after the current exceptional situation was over.

The Ministry affirms that, in his statements, the Minister never mentioned that the two countries had agreed to deploy joint forces in the oil-producing areas. The Minister was asked about this, but he denied that the presidents had reached an agreement in that regard.